

## CHRISTMAS JOY IN MANY FORMS FILLS CAPITAL

A Real Yuletide in Spirit  
Though Snow Was Lacking  
and Day Springlike.

### CITY'S POOR MADE HAPPY

Thousands Provided with  
Substantial Dinners or  
Well-filled Baskets.

### CONSIDER CHILDREN ESPECIALLY

Orphans and Others in Institutions Are  
Liberal Remembered—Family  
Celebrations Many.

The day of days—for the old folk as well as the children—is over. Christmas, 1915, now exists only in memory, but, according to the people of the District, be they old or young, rich or poor, that memory will be a never-dying one. It was a real Christmas, even though the snow was lacking, even though the weather was suggestive of spring, even though it rained downright hard after nightfall.

Every minute of the day was utilized by the District's celebrants. The festivities commenced at 12:01 a. m. with impressive services in scores of Catholic and Episcopal churches. \$400 more services were held later in the morning—around 6 o'clock. Christmas carols were sung. Yuletide music of a special nature was rendered, prayers of thanksgiving were offered, and short talks of an appropriate nature were given.

### Joys for the Children.

Then, as daylight filtered in through the windows of the thousands of homes of the city, children's eyes opened as though by magic. Little feet pattered over the floors as the annual search was commenced for the gaudy left by Santa Claus. And, of course, the packs were large. There were Christmas trees all gaily decorated with tinsel and sparkling ornaments and candles and tiny electric lights. There were stockings—far too small—packed just to overflowing with candy and nuts and oranges and other good things that go with Christmas.

The family circle celebrations were, of course, the most important. They came first and took up the most time. But after the breakfast dishes had been washed, and toy horns had been blown, and presents had been distributed, the visiting season commenced. You know, there were relatives and friends scattered all over the city, and they had to be visited and presented with little gifts tied all up in tissue paper with little red or gold ribbon and sealed with the cutest little stickers. Then, just before time to leave, the host and hostess brought out the fruit cake and candy and nuts on a tray, and perchance the visitors were introduced to the egg nog bowl.

### A Few Exceptions.

This was the day for the average resident of the District. Of course, there were variations in individual cases. For instance, the residents of the District Jail were not permitted to visit, but they had their Christmas dinner and their Christmas tree and they were happy. And the poor of the city had no friends to visit, so they made trips to the various missions and other charitable institutions, where they were treated quite royally.

The Gospel Mission served dinner yesterday afternoon to several hundred homeless men. Following the meal a literary and musical program was given for the benefit of the children. There were presents on the Christmas trees for each of these.

Religious services were held at noon at Central Union Mission, 622 Louisiana.

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

### WOMAN CHOSEN DESIGNER.

Janet Scudder Selected as Artist for  
A. B. C. Mediator Medals.

New York, Dec. 25.—Janet Scudder, who is to design the gold medals the United States will present to the A. B. C. mediators, was selected for the work by President Wilson.

The wealthy sculptress' name was first mentioned to the President by members of the Fine Arts Commission. President Wilson, after conferring with Secretary Lansing, named Miss Scudder as his choice.

The medals will go to Ambassadors Nason, of Argentina; Da Gama, of Brazil; and Suarez, of Chile.

The medals will bear an inscription stating that they are presented to the ambassadors for "their generous services as mediators in the controversy between the United States government and the leaders of the warring parties of the republic of Mexico."

Serbs Took 25,000 Teutons Prisoners

Basel, Switzerland, Dec. 25.—Twenty-two thousand German and Austro-Hungarian soldiers were captured by the Serbians in the Balkan campaign, according to a dispatch from Frankfurt-on-Main.

The dispatch attributes the information to the Frankfurter Zeitung.

## Killed in His Garage By Auto Gas Fumes

Special to The Washington Herald.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—"Petromortis," or death from automobile gas fumes, made its first appearance here late last night when it struck down Eugene M. Bumphy, a lawyer, who was starting on an errand in his machine to give Christmas gifts to the poor.

He was found dead on the floor of his garage in the rear of his residence, 4829 Prairie avenue. The engine of the car was running and the small room was filled with gas fumes.

"The gasoline fumes that caused Mr. Bumphy's death," said Dr. John D. Ellis, head of the department of occupational diseases of Rush Medical College, "were not caused by carbon monoxide. The lethal fumes were splitting products of benzene, which are so new to science they have not been named. Death was due to absorption of some of these unidentified gaseous poisons.

"The gas is as deadly as a knife thrust through the heart."

## KILLS HERSELF ON CHRISTMAS

Mrs. Gertrude West Drinks  
Four Ounces of Car-  
bolic Acid.

### MONTGOMERY ASPHYXIATED; POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING

Woman Said to Have Been His Wife,  
but Who Roomed Elsewhere,  
Cannot Be Found.

"I feel like killing myself," So Mrs. Gertrude West, 27, is quoted as saying to neighbors on Christmas morning. She was found yesterday afternoon on a bed in her room in an all-male unconscious condition from carbolic acid poisoning. She lived at 1239 Third street southwest. The woman died shortly after 5 o'clock in Emergency Hospital.

Coroner J. Ramsey Nevitt said she committed suicide and issued a certificate accordingly. It was said she had a child 8 years old and a husband of the name of William H. West.

The woman did not write a death note. It was said. She was found with a four-ounce bottle of carbolic acid beside her. Only a drop of the poison was left in the bottle.

Another Christmas death was brought to the attention of the District's coroner, Earl E. Montgomery was found unconscious in a room at 629 Sixth street northwest early yesterday. He died last night in Emergency Hospital. Coroner Nevitt postponed issuance of a certificate of death until the police have made an investigation.

Montgomery's unconscious condition was discovered by another roomer, who smelled gas. The windows of his room were closed and the gas cock was opened. Montgomery had taken the room for a week on Friday night.

It was said the man's wife lived in Ninth street northwest. Efforts to find her were futile.

## Carranza Troops To Enter the U. S.

Cross to Juarez Where They  
Will Relieve Villa  
Garrison.

Special to The Washington Herald.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 25.—Two thousand Carranza troops from Sonora will replace the Villa garrison occupying Juarez according to an official announcement made today after a conference between Gen. Alvaro Obregon and Gen. Plutarco Elias Calles. Gen. Calles arrived here this morning from Sonora. The 2,000 Villa troops now in Juarez will be sent south toward interior towns.

The Carranza troops from Sonora will travel through the United States to reach Juarez and are expected in the next ten days. A report reached here today that Gen. Francisco Villa is making his way toward the west coast from Chihuahua and will attempt to escape by boat at some unimportant seaport. Gen. Calles will return to Sonora in a day or two to organize a campaign against the Yaqui Indians ravaging the Yaqui Valley.

Von Buelow Goes to Switzerland.

London, Dec. 25.—Prince von Buelow left Switzerland Friday, according to a Zurich dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The name of Prince von Buelow has been connected with many rumors of peace negotiations.

Berlin Paper Suspended.

Amsterdam, Dec. 25.—A private dispatch from Berlin reports that the newspaper Zukunft, edited by Maximilian Harden, the most famous journalist in Germany, has been suppressed by the German government because of its expressions on peace.

## U. S. REFUSES TO DISCUSS ANCONA MATTER ORALLY

Lansing Tells Austrian Charge  
Prompt Reply from Vienna  
to Note Is Desired.

### WANTS DEFINITE ANSWER

Interpreted as Meaning There  
Will Be No More Tempor-  
izing on Sub Issue.

### U. S. NOT TO YIELD AN INCH

America Will Hold Austria to Strict  
Accountability—No More Confer-  
ences with Baron Zwiendiek.

Efforts of Baron Zwiendiek, Austrian Charge, to act as intermediary between his government and the United States in the critical Ancona situation, much as Ambassador von Bernstorff acted for Germany during the Lusitania negotiations, have failed.

It became known yesterday during his conferences on Friday Secretary of State Lansing told Baron Zwiendiek that oral discussion of the Ancona case would not be acceptable to this government. He said further that a prompt reply from Vienna to the last note is desired.

Secretary Lansing took the ground that discussion of the case by the charge on his own responsibility would avail nothing, and that the United States could be satisfied only with a definite answer.

Baron Zwiendiek. It was learned through diplomatic channels, made overtures to Secretary Lansing looking to oral discussion of the Ancona case on the basis of giving guarantees of his government as to future conduct. His idea, in this, diplomats in touch with the negotiations declare, was to open a way for continued discussion of the Ancona case. This would be similar to the Lusitania case, in which negotiations were prolonged by assurances given by Germany last September that she would adopt the principles set forth by the United States to govern future submarine operations.

### Two Views Expressed.

Two views were expressed as to Secretary Lansing's reasons for rejecting the overtures of the Austrian Charge to enter into oral discussion of the case.

One view held by those who insist that the United States will stand irrevocably on its demands upon Austria for disavowal of the act and punishment of the submarine commander was that the United States is through temporizing on the submarine issue and is prepared to hold Austria to full accountability.

The other view, which finds support in diplomatic circles, is that Secretary Lansing rejected Baron Zwiendiek's overtures because the latter has not been given plenipotentiary powers to negotiate with the United States toward a settlement of the Ancona case, as was Count von Bernstorff by the German government during the Lusitania crisis.

### No Report on Mars.

No reply was received from Ambassador Page at London and American consular officers at Mediterranean ports to cables requesting facts on the sinking of the Japanese liner, Yawaka Maru, by an Austrian or German submarine.

Absence of news either in the Ancona or the Yawaka Maru case increased the tension which has been growing since confidential information was received in Washington that the Austrian government will refuse to accede to demands for disavowal of the Ancona sinking.

It is admitted in all official circles that the United States is facing the gravest diplomatic problem arising since the war began and that the most critical stage will be reached when Austria replies to the second Ancona note.

### MME. CALVE TO SING HERE.

Concert to Be for Benefit of French  
Ambulance Committee.

New York, Dec. 25.—Emma Calve, the French soprano, will devote the balance of the season to singing for the benefit of the French Red Cross committee, which is raising money for purchases of ambulances.

She will be heard at a concert in the Metropolitan Opera House on Tuesday evening, January 4, and later at concerts at Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington.

Instead of wearing conventional evening costume, Mme. Calve will appear in the uniform of a Red Cross nurse, which she wore while nursing in France.

### Greek Steamer in Collision.

Dover, England, Dec. 25.—The Greek steamship Nefeli, bound from Philadelphia to Rotterdam, has been damaged in a collision. She is anchored in the Downs.

The Nefeli is a steel screw steamship of 3,800 tons. She is registered at Andros, Greece, and was built in Sunderland in 1912.

Good Old Sunshine Around Augusta

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 25.—A fine day, with a m. daily, arriving there noon next day. Southern Railway office, 705 15th, 111 G. st.—Ed.

## President Catches a Cold Shielding Bride From Rain

Gallantly Protects Her with His Sweater When They Are  
Caught in Storm on Golf Links, a Mile from Shelter.  
Mrs. Wilson Selects Christmas Dinner Menu.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 25.—President Wilson is suffering from a slight cold tonight, the consequence of having gallantly removed his sweater to protect his bride in a rain squall which overtook them while playing golf early this afternoon.

The storm broke without warning while the couple were nearly a mile from cover. Both were drenched when they reached their apartments in the hotel.

### Rain Changes to Snow.

Later in the afternoon the rain turned into snow and the thermometer fell rapidly. The President did not leave his quarters again, but his experience did not prevent partaking of a hearty dinner ordered personally by Mrs. Wilson.

This was the menu:

Canape d'olive, clear green turtle soup,

celery, olives and salted nuts, fresh

mushrooms, sous cloche, roast Virginia

turkey, new green peas, hot-house asparagus, endive salad, fancy ice, petite

four.

The list of presents received by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson include remembrances from every member of their immediate family and several of the Cabinet officers.

Their presents on Christmas Tree.

These were all arranged about the private Christmas tree which was lighted tonight for the first time. The entire evening was occupied in writing acknowledgments.

The President has declined to make known the character of his Christmas gifts to the bride, and Mrs. Wilson has been equally silent about her present to her husband.

It was definitely stated that no visitors

are expected here from Washington to-

orrow as announced in dispatches from

there.

By GEORGES CLEMENCEAU.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Dec. 25.—The Teutons and the Bulgars, seconded in an underhanded way by King Constantine, are going to hurl themselves soon upon Saloniki.

They can be sure of getting a suitable reception from Gen. Sarrahl's men, but I would rather see French bravery usefully employed than celebrated in dithyrambs.

The sole question confronting us is what strategic advantages are we going to obtain at Saloniki? The partisans most convinced of the efficacy of our Balkan policy cannot say that we are to gain anything there unless we send a great many more troops, yet I do not believe that any chief would accept the responsibility of weakening our front in France, just when the whole of the European press is announcing a supreme German effort to break through.

Kaiser Feels First Death Tremor.

The Kaiser is feeling the first death tremor. While the Teuton appeals for peace go unheeded, the German peoples are asking themselves whether they are

not going to smash themselves against

an aggregation of force which is

underrated.

The wastage in effectives, the street riots in Berlin and the growing misery

caused by the scientific apportionment of food all attest that the Kaiser feels the rod of domination shaking in his hand.

Where can he deliver his supreme blow? His Russian advance has led only to exhaustion of his effectives.

Even Count Tizza cannot check the peace clamor which is sweeping over

Austria-Hungary, which has been torn asunder by misfortune.

Count Tizza powerless to stem tide.

The East Mesopotamia and Egypt are

Pyrrhic dreams. Phantasmagoria of

delirious imagination cannot create

armies.

But now the supreme opportunity

arises. They will try to march against

the line, that the Germans held months

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who in France will dare to ignore it,

who will dare to weaken our western

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## MAIL BAG ROBBED OF SECURITIES WORTH \$750,000

Thieves Cut Open Pouch at  
Wilmington While En  
Route to Depot.

### ARREST NEGRO DRIVERS

Believed by Officials They  
Were Bribed by Men  
in Conspiracy.

### \$350,000 OF LOOT RECOVERED

Remaining \$400,000 Said to Be Nego-  
tiable—Inspectors Working  
on a Clue.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 25.—Stock certificates of the duPont Atlas and Hercules Powder Companies and General Motors Company, and coupon railroad bonds to the value of \$750,000 were stolen from a registered mail pouch here shortly before midnight last night while it was being transported from the Wilmington postoffice to the Pennsylvania Railroad station. Of this amount \$350,000 was subsequently found hidden beneath a blanket in the mail wagon. Albert Johnson and Earl Johnson, negroes, drivers of the wagon, were arrested. They are not related. They are believed merely to be tools of the robbers who escaped.

### Were En Route to New York.

The certificates were en route to New York. Some of them belong to the duPont company, and others to brokers in New York who bought the shares for clients.

The pouch stolen was one of three of which the negroes were in charge. It was the only one containing registered mail. The robbery was the most daring ever committed hereabouts, and was evidently the culmination of a carefully laid plot.

It is said the stocks and coupons had been recovered more readily by transfer or negotiation than the shares found in the mail wagon.

The negro drivers were questioned by postoffice officials and the police, and it is said, made admissions, for soon afterward the postoffice inspector and a companion disappeared, apparently to run down clues. The Johnsons lived at 214 Orange street here. This place was searched but nothing was found. The accused were given a preliminary hearing today by United States Commissioner Mahaffy and each was held in \$5,000 bail for appearance Thursday. In default, they were committed. They were not government employees, being employed by a man who had the contract.

### Believe Negroes Were Bribed.

The theory is the robbers bribed the negroes and were allowed to ride in the mail wagon from the postoffice to the railroad station, a distance of twelve blocks. It was a covered vehicle drawn by one horse. This gave the conspirators ample time to cut open the mail pouches of the three pouches and to select the negotiable securities.

The rifled pouch was found beneath the driver's seat in the wagon. It had been cut open with a sharp knife or razor. A second bag inside had, in turn, been cut open. The inner bag contained the valuables. One of the missing packages contained securities to the value of \$25,000.